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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

50X1

COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Leopoldov State Prison	DATE DISTR.	9 September 1953
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STATE	#x	ARMY	#x	NAVY	#x	AIR	#x	FBI		AEC					
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REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

50X1

DATE DISTR. 31 Jul 53

SUBJECT Leopoldov State Prison

NO. OF PAGES 2

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

2. For many years the prison had been used for hardened criminals. I do not know when it was designated as a prison for political prisoners, but it was undoubtedly sometime after 1948. After the change, the immediate vicinity of the prison became a restricted area, and entrance was gained only by special authorization from the prison director.

3. The prison was a former castle-fortress from the days of Emperor Leopold II, who had built the fortress as protection against Tartar invasions. It was located about one-half mile east of the village of Leopoldov, and about 1½ miles northwest of Hlohovec [4826N-1748E], on the west side of the Vah River. The prison was situated in an open area, surrounded by farm fields. The 20 m. high stone rampart surrounding the prison grounds was octagon-shaped, with sides sloping from about 20 m. wide at the top to 50 m. at the bottom. The outer wall inclined at an angle of about 75°; the less steep 50-60° incline of the inner wall permitted the cultivation of fruit trees and vineyards, as was done on top of the rampart, and could be easily scaled. 50X1

I heard that the gradual slope of this wall caused prison authorities much worry because, once escaped from his cell, a prisoner could easily scale it and slide down the other side.

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4. As far as I know, the rampart was not hollow and did not house any cells for prisoners. This rampart was surrounded by a large moat about 10 m. deep and 30 m. wide; however the moat was not kept filled with water, and the bottom had grown up in grass.
- 50X1 5. [redacted] a number of changes had taken place inside the prison wall. According to these stories, the small Catholic church had been torn down, most of the fruit trees and other vegetation had been cut away and, more recently, two electric crematories had been installed. In connection with this, 50X1 [redacted] overheard a conversation about the prison in a Leopoldov tavern in the Fall of 1952. A prison guard of Leopoldov Prison had become very drunk in this tavern, and started talking loudly, 50X1 eventually seeming to go berserk. The guard had shouted, "I don't want to kill and be a murderer; I want nothing to do with it!"
6. There were two entrances to the prison grounds for pedestrians and automobiles, plus an entrance for a single-track railway spur leading from the Hlohovec-Mestecko railway. Each of these entrances was guarded by a huge wooden gate which swung outward. The buildings inside the wall were built of brick. I have not heard of a renovation which allegedly took place in October 1951. /For a memory sketch of the prison area in 1943, see Enclosure B.7
7. The prison was very brightly illuminated at night, and, according to rumors in the area, prison authorities seemed to be afraid of an attempt by parachutists to free the prisoners.
8. The preponderance of rumor in the area seemed to indicate that the prison was operated by the StB, and was under the jurisdiction of a state court. There was never anything to indicate that the prison was operated by the military or had any connection whatsoever with the military.
- 50X1 9. I do not know whether the majority of the Leopoldov prisoners were Czech or Slovak, nor what the ratio was of political prisoners to criminals. I have heard that there were about 9,000 political prisoners inside Leopoldov Prison, most of them being former officials of the Slovak government, but I have no idea what percentage were men or women. The figure of 9,000, however, seems too large to me [redacted] although I cannot estimate the number either then or now. I am also unable to identify any of the prisoners or say whether they were later transferred to labor camps.
10. I never heard of anyone escaping from Leopoldov Prison. I also do not know if prisoners were allowed to receive packages or whether they could be visited by relatives.

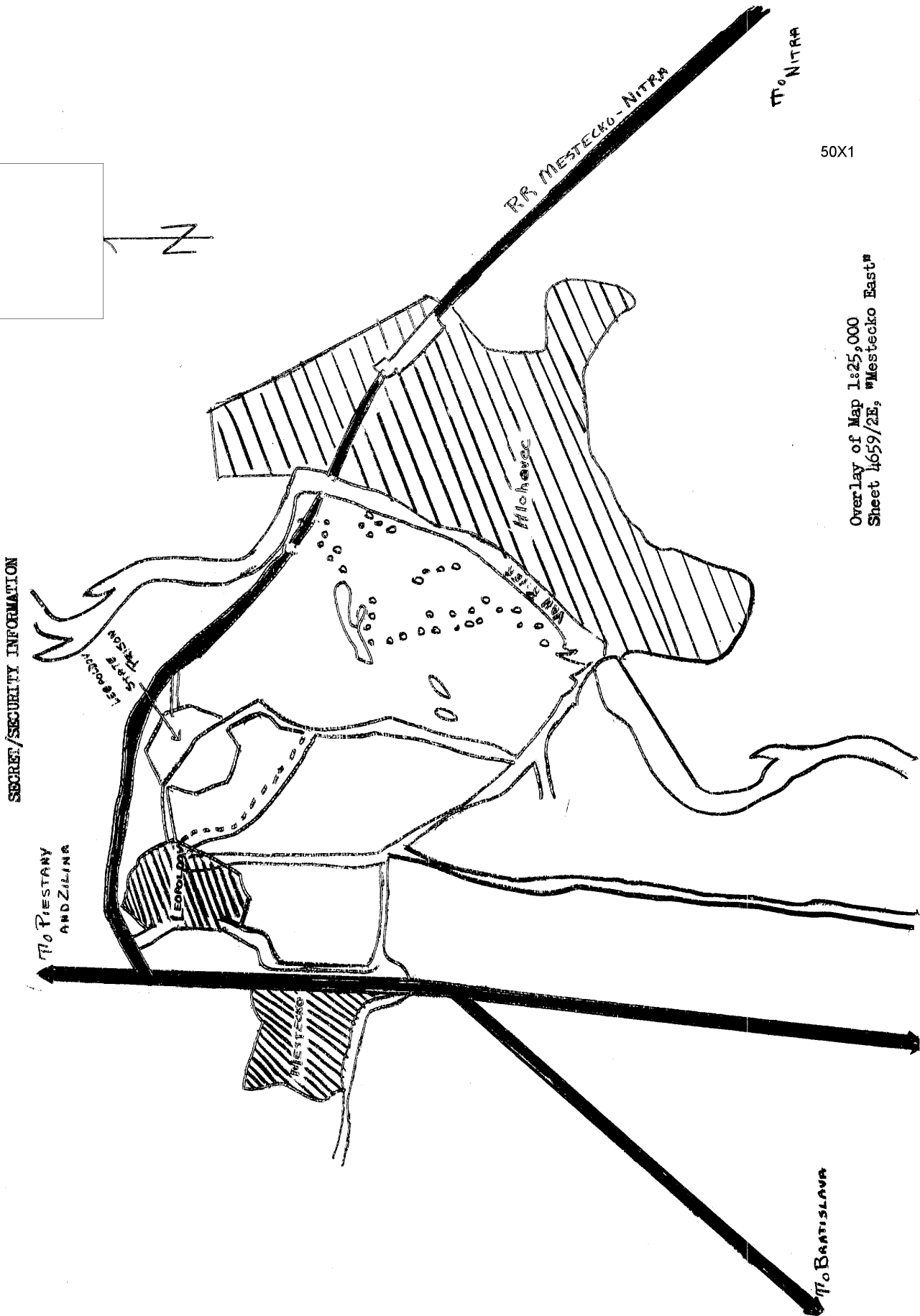
Enclosure A: Overlay of Map 1:25,000

Sheet 4659/2E, "Mestecko East"

B: Source's Memory Sketch of Leopoldov State Prison in Leopoldov

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Overlay of Map 1:25,000
Sheet 4659/2E, "Mestecko East"

50X1

Enclosure B

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Single-track railroad spur, leading from the Hlohovec-Mestecko railroad.

Auto & Pedes-
trian entrance
& exit.

Guards'
Qtrrs.

Guards'
Qtrrs.

Guards'
Qtrrs.

Catholic
Church

Storage
warehouse

Guards'
Qtrrs.

Auto & Pedes-
trian Exit
& Entrance

Three-story, narrow bldg, with windows on north side.

Main adm. bldg;
4 stories
high.

Guards'
Qtrrs.

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